

Australian Capital Territory

CATALOGUE NO. 1303.8

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 22 JUNE 1994



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, JUNE 1994

MAIN FEATURES

Series updated since the May 1994 issue are: quarterly Australian business expectations; monthly building approvals; monthly industrial disputes; quarterly interstate road freight; monthly labour force; quarterly demography; quarterly house price index; monthly new motor vehicle registrations and monthly retail turnover.

Notable movements include:

- The impact of quite large declines in residential building and dwelling unit approvals was reduced slightly by reasonably strong growth in the value of non-residential building. The value of total building in the ACT fell by 11.2 per cent to \$47 million in April 1994.
- There were 9 industrial disputes in the ACT in 1993, down from 12 in 1992. This continued the trend of annual decreases in the number of disputes since 1988 and is the lowest number of disputes for a calendar year since 1969 when 8 disputes were reported. Nationally the number of industrial disputes in a calendar year has fallen to its lowest level since 1942 with 610 disputes reported in 1993.
- Following a 2.6 per cent increase in the December quarter 1993, total interstate road freight moved by major operators into the ACT fell by 1.2 per cent during the March quarter 1994. Freight movement out of the ACT fell for the second consecutive quarter with movements in the March quarter 1994 1.7 per cent below those in the December quarter 1993.
- Trend employment in the ACT was slightly lower than the previous month (-0.1%) with 11,400 persons reported as employed in May 1994. Nationally, employment continues to rise and has reached its highest level since September 1990 with a monthly increase of 0.1 per cent in May 1994.
- The trend unemployment rate in the ACT continues to be the lowest of all the States and Territories at a rate of 6.9 per cent in May 1994, a decline of 1.4 per cent from the previous month and 4.2 per cent on the same period in the previous year.
- The estimated resident population of the ACT at 31 December 1993 is 299,400 an increase of 200 in the December quarter and 3,500 since December 1992. This represents a growth rate during the 1993 calendar year of 1.56 per cent, the second highest of all Australian States and Territories behind Queensland which had a growth rate of 2.75 per cent.
- The price index of established houses in the ACT fell by 0.3 per cent between the December quarter 1993 and March quarter 1994. In the year to March quarter 1994, the index fell by 1.4 per cent. Nationally the movements were 1.1 per cent and 2.8 per cent respectively.
- The fall in trend new motor vehicle registrations for the ACT over the last two months is the first since October 1992. The trend level for total registrations is now 1.7 per cent lower than the March 1994 figure, but is 9.6 per cent above the comparable figure last year. Nationally trend new motor vehicle registrations has increased by 0.3 per cent since March 1993 and by 9.0 per cent since April 1993.
- The trend estimate of retail turnover for the ACT showed its first decline in 10 months, with April 1994 falling by 0.1 per cent from the previous month. Pharmacies, Electrical goods stores and Furniture stores were the major contributors to the decline in the trend growth rate. Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs continue to show strong growth as does Department and general stores, but to a lesser extent.

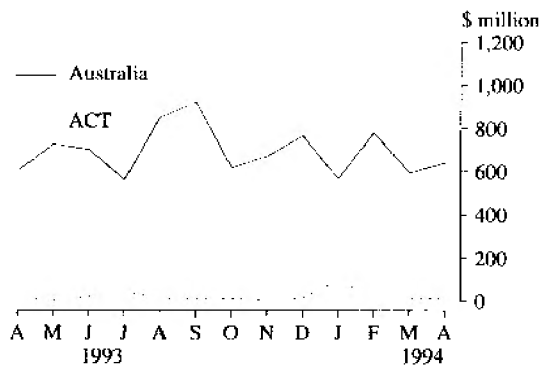
DALMA JACOBS
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

INQUIRIES

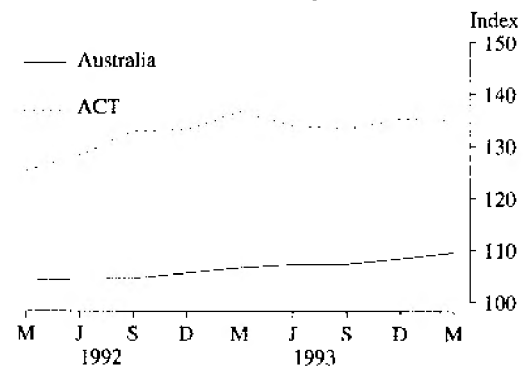
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

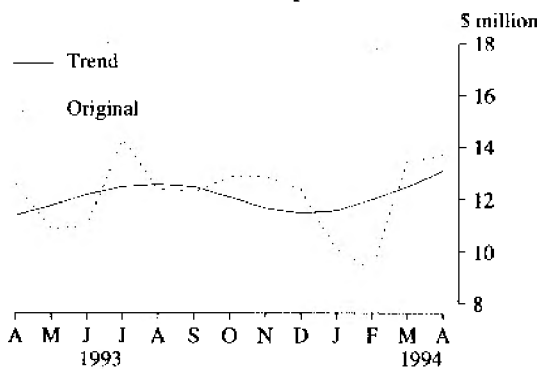
BUILDING APPROVALS
Non-residential buildings



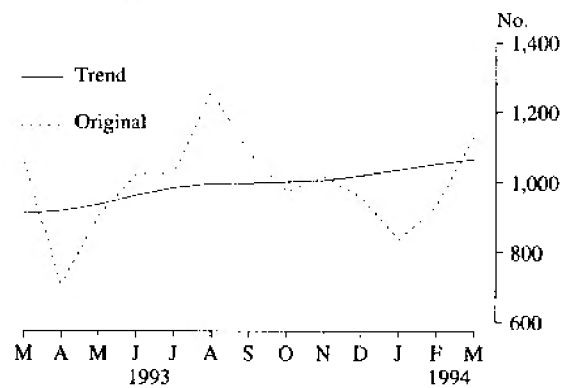
PRICES
Established house price index



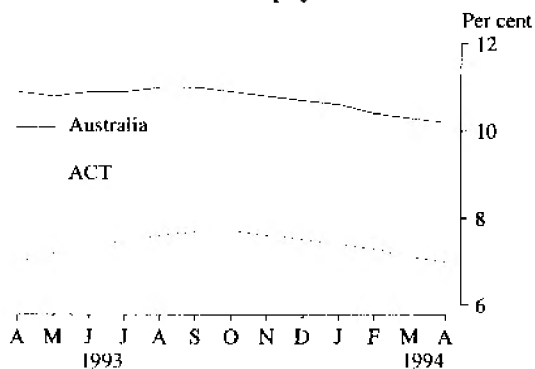
RETAIL TURNOVER
Hotels and liquor stores



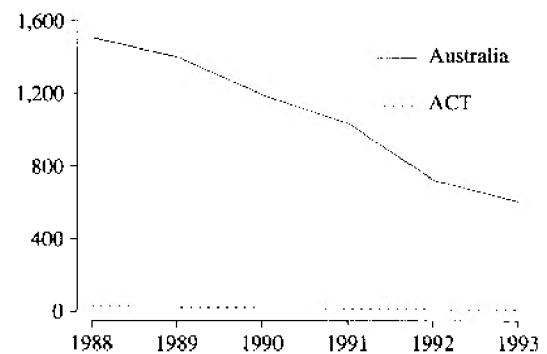
MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



LABOUR FORCE
Trend unemployment rates



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
Number of disputes which occurred during the year



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,
MARCH QUARTER 1994/MARCH QUARTER 1995
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Short-term		
March 1994	-0.4	-1.4
June 1994	1.7	1.9
Medium-term		
December 1994	2.8	3.1
March 1995	3.8	3.9

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, JUNE 1994

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
Average weekly earnings, February 94							
Original series							
Males	\$	712.50	3.2	7.0	625.60	1.1	2.4
Females	\$	490.40	2.6	4.3	416.80	2.0	1.7
Persons	\$	601.30	2.9	6.2	529.00	1.4	2.1
Trend series							
Males	\$	706.50	2.3	6.5	621.40	0.2	2.4
Females	\$	482.20	0.2	3.4	411.00	—	1.8
Persons	\$	594.40	1.5	5.4	523.30	0.1	2.1
Building approvals, April 94							
Dwelling units	no.	244	-31.8	-37.6	13 856	-16.1	-2.1
Value of new residential	\$m	26.0	-20.8	-42.4	1 192.7	-18.5	0.4
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	6.4	-1.5	77.8	1 787.7	-12.1	8.2
Value of non-residential	\$m	14.6	7.4	-4.6	642	7.6	6.0
Value of total building	\$m	47.0	-11.2	-26.6	2 013.4	-11.0	2.8
Building commencements, December quarter 93							
New houses	no.	410	-32.5	-39.0	31 703	-3.0	3.6
Value of houses commenced	\$m	49.8	-24.1	-26.3	2 892.7	-1.4	7.6
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	34.5	-45.5	-2.8	2 115.7	14.3	11.5
Hotels, motels and guest house accommodation, September quarter 93							
Original series							
Room nights	no.	199.8	6.8	12.0	8 360.5	8.5	6.7
Takings at current prices	\$m	16.6	4.4	16.1	672.2	9.9	8.3
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.1	4.9	17.1	581.9	8.7	6.6
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	no.	199.6	16.1	12.5	8 042.2	—	6.8
Takings at current prices	\$m	16.7	6.4	17.6	649.4	0.2	8.1
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.1	6.3	18.0	562.8	-0.7	6.4
Trend series							
Room nights	no.	192.2	5.1	4.2	8 055.6	0.4	6.3
Takings at current prices	\$m	16.4	1.9	9.3	650.5	0.8	7.6
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	14.9	-1.3	4.9	564.3	—	5.3
Housing finance, March 94							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	11.7	12.5	-12.0	863.9	21.3	31.7
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	24.7	57.3	51.5	255.1	9.7	54.3
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	85.0	5.5	44.8	3 932.1	20.7	35.2
Total new housing commitments	\$m	121.2	15.4	35.4	5 051.1	20.2	35.5
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total new housing commitments	\$m	112.8	-0.8	33.5	4 253.1	-0.8	34.8
Trend series							
Total new housing commitments	\$m	112.3	2.2	30.0	4 257.9	1.9	34.7
Industrial disputes in progress, February 94							
Working days lost	'000	0.6	-100.0	—	45	733.3	31.6
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Feb 94)	no.	80	5.3	300.0	110	1.9	-30.8
Interstate road freight movement, March quarter 93							
Originating	'000 tonnes	45.8	-1.7	14.5	4 492.3	-3.6	-0.2
Receiving	'000 tonnes	134.4	-1.2	-25.7	4 492.3	-3.6	-0.2
Labour force, May 94 p							
Job vacancies (February quarter 94)	'000	1.5	36.4	50.0	45.9	20.2	54.0
Original series							
Employed	'000	154.3	1.4	1.1	7 879.2	0.6	3.0
Unemployed	'000	10.9	-6.8	7.9	849.9	-3.8	-8.9
Unemployment rate(a)	%	6.6	-8.3	6.5	9.7	-4.0	-10.2
Participation rate(a)	%	72.5	0.7	-0.4	62.7	—	0.6

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MAY 1994 — continued

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
Labour force, May 94 p — continued							
Trend series							
Employed	'000	152.7	-0.1	1.6	7 850.1	0.1	2.8
Unemployed	'000	11.4	-1.7	-1.7	866.9	-1.4	-6.7
Unemployment rate(a)	%	6.9	-1.4	-4.2	9.9	-2.0	-8.3
Participation rate(a)	%	72.1	-0.1	-0.4	62.6	-0.2	0.5
New motor vehicle registrations, April 94 p							
Original motor vehicles	no.	779	-31.1	10.0	44 081	-16.3	9.0
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	900	-10.0	9.5	51 092	11.7	12.2
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 005	-1.7	9.6	49 367	0.3	9.0
Population, December quarter 93							
'000		299.4	0.1	1.2	17 746.6	0.2	1.0
Natural increase	no.	775	-2.5	-12.1	32 918	2.6	—
Net migration	no.	-523	-623.0	-5.3	4 123	1 835.5	42.6
Total increase	no.	252	-71.8	-23.6	37 041	-25.1	3.4
Prices							
Consumer Price Index, All groups (Mar. 94) (1989-90=100.0)		111.4	0.1	1.2	110.4	0.4	1.4
Established house price index (Mar. qtr. 94) (1989-90=100.0)		134.9	-0.3	-1.4	109.6	1.1	2.8
Price index of house building materials (Mar. 94)(b)		151.3	-0.1	5.7	153.1	0.3	4.6
Retail turnover, April 94							
Original series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	51.6	-6.9	11.9	2 449.1	-7.5	—
Department and general stores	\$m	22.3	1.8	0.9	822.6	1.2	-1.2
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	13.7	1.5	8.7	1 055.4	-1.4	7.6
All other stores	\$m	76.9	-7.2	-1.0	3 829.8	-6.2	5.5
Total	\$m	164.5	-5.3	1.6	8 156.9	-5.3	3.3
Trend series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	53.9	-0.2	7.6	2 511.2	-0.2	3.1
Department and general stores	\$m	24.0	1.3	1.7	901.2	0.1	1.1
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	13.1	4.8	14.9	1 068.9	0.8	8.9
All other stores	\$m	81.6	-1.2	4.5	4 105.8	0.5	7.6
Total	\$m	172.6	-0.1	5.8	8 587.1	0.3	5.7
State accounts, December quarter 93							
Original series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 453	2.5	8.1	114 399	10.1	6.7
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	3 037	5.2	2.7	99 997	6.0	1.7
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 406	6.9	6.8	70 097	7.7	5.4
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	285	5.2	-12.0	16 449	8.0	-2.1
Trend series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 322	0.7	6.9	106 555	1.3	5.9
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 935	-0.1	1.8	95 206	0.5	1.6
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 334	1.9	6.0	66 152	1.4	4.7
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	271	-4.6	-7.2	15 357	1.5	2.8

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8635.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9303.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Aust.	ACT
Employed persons (original)	'000 May 94p	2 645.4	1 963.6	1 423.2	638.1	785.6	196.7	72.4	7 879.2	154.3
Unemployment rate (trend)	% May 94p	9.8	11	9.4	10.6	8.2	11.6	7.7	9.9	6.9
Consumer price index: All groups (1989-90 =100.0)	Mar. qtr 94	109.1	111.2	110.8	113.6	108.6	111.9	111.4	110.4	111.4
Average weekly employee earnings: full-time adult ordinary time	\$ Feb. qtr 94	630.80	604.70	581.00	597.30	608.00	592.90	628.90	648.90	713.30
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m Apr. 94	3 000.4	2 041.7	1 529.1	647.3	874.3	212.6	n.p.	8 587.1	172.6
New motor vehicle registrations (original)	no. Apr. 94	14 648	9 890	10 451	2 656	4 251	811	595	44 081	779
Dwelling units approved	no. Apr. 94	3 808	2 422	4 021	847	2 094	279	141	13 856	244
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m Apr. 94	257	178.9	63.5	36.1	46.6	10.8	34.5	642	14.6
Value of all buildings approved	\$m Apr. 94	700.3	444.4	403.4	108.6	220.9	35	53.8	2 013.4	47
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m Dec. qtr 93	974.9	505.2	717.7	184.3	457	60.4	60.1	3 001.5	41.9
Room nights occupied in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (trend)	no. Sept. qtr 93	2 719.1	1 254.8	2 179.1	470.3	754.9	237.2	247.9	8 056.6	192.2

Figures in the above tables are either preliminary, final, or revisions to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: — nil or rounded to zero; n.a. — not available; p — preliminary data; n.p. — not available for publication. (a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) ACT data 1986-87 = 100.0, Australia 1985-86 = 100.0.

